

Serial No. 10/690,811

Attorney Docket No. 24-009-TN

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, listings, of claims in the application.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 7, 14, 15 and 16.

1. (Currently Amended) An orally administered agent free of a bioadhesive layer, comprising:

~~an edible polymer~~ a drug-containing layer containing a drug;

a first water-swellable gel-forming layer provided on one side of the drug-containing layer either directly or via an intermediate layer, the first water-swellable gel-forming layer not containing the drug;

a second water-swellable gel-forming layer provided on the other side of the drug-containing layer either directly or via an intermediate layer, the second water-swellable gel-forming layer not containing the drug, wherein

~~the first water-swellable gel-forming and the second water-swellable gel-forming layer are provided as outermost layers of said orally administered agent to form a mask for at least one of a taste and a smell of the drug;~~

the first water-swellable gel-forming layer and the second water-swellable gel-forming layer contain a water-swellable gel-forming agent and a film-forming agent that, together with the ~~edible polymer~~ drug-containing layer, facilitate a digestive tract release of the drug, and

the content of the water-swellable gel-forming agent in the first water-swellable gel-forming layer or the second water-swellable gel-forming layer is 15 to 70 wt%, and the content of the film-forming agent in the first water-swellable gel-forming layer or the second water-swellable gel-forming layer is 30 to 85 wt%.

2. (Original) The orally administered agent according to claim 1, wherein said orally administered agent is a film-shaped preparation.

3. (Canceled)

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4. (Currently Amended) The orally administered agent according to claim 1~~claim 3~~, wherein said water-swellable gel-forming agent is a cross-linked carboxyvinyl polymer, and said film-forming agent is polyvinyl alcohol.

5. (Original) The orally administered agent according to claim 4, wherein said cross-linked carboxyvinyl polymer is a carboxyvinyl polymer cross-linked by a polyvalent metal compound.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The orally administered agent according to claim 1, wherein the first water-swellable gel-forming layer and the second water-swellable gel forming layer are provided as outermost layers of said orally administered agent ~~said water-swellable gel forming layers can to form a mask for the taste and/or smell of a drug contained in said drug-containing layer.~~

8. (Previously presented) The orally administered agent according to claim 1, wherein said drug-containing layer contains an edible polymer as a base.

9. (Original) The orally administered agent according to claim 8, wherein said edible polymer is cellulose and/or a cellulose derivative.

10. (Previously presented) The orally administered agent according to claim 8, wherein the content of said edible polymer in said drug-containing layer is at least 20 wt%.

11. (Withdrawn) An orally administered agent/supporting substrate complex comprising the orally administered agent according to any one of claims 1 to 10, and a supporting substrate that supports the orally administered agent, wherein said orally administered agent is provided on said supporting substrate either directly or via an intermediate layer.

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12. (Withdrawn) The orally administered agent/supporting substrate complex according to claim 11, wherein said supporting substrate has a gripping part and a mouth-inserting part, and said orally administered agent is provided on said mouth-inserting part.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The orally administered agent of claim 1, wherein the ~~edible polymer drug-containing~~ layer comprises one of a stomach-soluble polymer and an intestine-soluble polymer.

15. (Currently amended) The orally administered agent of claim 14, wherein ~~the edible one of the stomach-soluble polymer and the intestine-soluble polymer is cellulose and/or a cellulose derivative~~ comprises one of a cellulose and a cellulose derivative.

16. (Currently amended) The orally administered agent of claim 1, wherein the water-swellable gel-forming agent contained in the first water-swellable gel-forming layer and the second water-swellable gel-forming layer ~~swells through moisture in saliva or other moisture in the mouth of a patient to form a gel that changes into a form having a size, shape, elasticity, and viscosity so that swallowing is easy for the patient~~ comprises a ~~parostasis~~ promoting agent.

17. (Previously presented) An orally administered agent, comprising:
a plurality of drug-containing layers; and
a water-swellable gel-forming layer, wherein
the multiple drug-containing layers are heat-sealed via an intermediate layer which includes a heat-sealing adhesive, and
the water-swellable gel-forming layer is provided as an outermost layer of the orally administered agent.

18. (Previously presented) The orally administered agent according to claim 17, wherein the heat-sealing adhesive is one of a homopolymer of vinyl acetate and a copolymer between vinyl acetate and vinyl pyrrolidone.

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19. (Previously presented) The orally administered agent according to claim 17, wherein the orally administered agent is free of a bioadhesive layer.

20. (Previously presented) The orally administered agent according to claim 17, wherein a drug in the drug-containing layers is released in a stomach or an intestine.

21. (Previously presented) The orally administered agent according to claim 17, wherein the orally administered agent is a film-shaped preparation.